

September 24, 2012

TO: Miguel A. Del Toral, Regulations Manager  
Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd (WG-15J)  
Chicago, IL 60604 (312) 886-5253 (P)

Re: 0316005664-Cook County  
Chicago/Amtrak-Lumber Street Yard  
1500-1700 Lumber Street  
Site Remediation Program/Technical Reports

#### SITE HISTORY:

Penn Central Railroad and Pennsylvania Railroad were the previous yet separate owners of the site since its development in the late 1800s until 1976 when Amtrak acquired the property.

Going back to 1978, Amtrak discovered the 2.5 million gallon and 980,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tanks were leaking. Amtrak took measures to address the leaking by removing both of the aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and replacing them with a single smaller tank (450,000 gallon capacity). Additional actions were undertaken by Amtrak, but in November 1992 the City of Chicago issued Amtrak a citation for contaminating the Chicago River. In December 1994, Amtrak enrolled the Lumber Street yard in the Illinois EPA's Pre-Notice Program, a voluntary cleanup effort, which has been replaced by the current Site Remediation Program (SRP). In 2006, the Illinois Attorney General filed suit against Amtrak and a Consent Order was issued.

After enrollment in the Pre-Notice Program, a recovery system was installed and operated until early 2008. A new Multi-Phase Extraction (MPE) System was installed in the area formerly occupied by the ASTs which incorporates a manifold system (a series of well connected by piping). The MPE system officially began operating in January 2009 and as of July 2012 had processed 866,923 gallons of groundwater and recovered 2,616 gallons of diesel free-product.

Since January 2012, the MPE System has been shutdown to determine the extent of rebound of the existing soil and groundwater contamination.

There are several other areas of the Lumber Street site that had the typical underground storage tanks (USTs) which had releases and were reported to the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois EPA. The SRP is in the process of issuing a *No Further Remediation (NFR) Letter* for six (6) of those areas that have achieved cleanup under the current objectives.

The contaminants of concern listed have included the eight (8) RCRA metals, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (total), and PNAs (e.g.- benzo(a)anthracene, chrysene, naphthalene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, benzo(a)pyrene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, and dibenzo(a,h)anthracene). Herbicides have not been listed as having been stored or used on the remediation site which is listed as approximately 50 acres.

My contact for the Amtrak remediation site is Ms. Ellen Jurczak, Senior Environmental Coordinator, 500 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60661 (312) 382-5310.

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